

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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R 022000Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SWEDISH INTEREST IN ARGENTINA AND INTER-AMERICAN
BANK

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
MET WITH LEIF LEIFLAND, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SWEDISH
FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON JULY 1. LEIFLAND DISCUSSED
SWEDEN'S ACCESSION TO INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND
EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN ARGENTINE POLITICAL AND HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY BUENOS
AIRESADVICE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A WESTERN EUROPEAN
DEMARCHE TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
PROTECTION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRE-
CIATE EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES COMMENTS.

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1. INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB). LEIFLAND
EXPLAINED THAT THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT HAD APPROVED HIS
COUNTRY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE IDB. APPROVAL CAME DESPITE
VOCAL OPPOSITION FROM SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO CONSIDER
IDB TO BE U.S. INSTRUMENT WHICH SERVES AIMS OF LATIN
AMERICAN MILITARY REGIMES. THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN

WASHINGTON IS NOW NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH THE IDB. THE BANK WOULD LIKE SWEDEN TO MATCH

BELGIUM'S CONTRIBUTION. SWEDEN WOULD PREFER TO PAY A SMALLER AMOUNT AS THE NETHERLANDS DOES.

2. AMBASSADOR TODMAN DISCUSSED THE SITUATION THE U.S. FACES IN THE IDB. SOME MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT A MULTI-LATERAL GROUP SHOULD TAKE POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS RATHER THAN A SINGLE COUNTRY. OTHERS SAY WE ARE TRYING TO POLITICIZE THE BANK. STILL OTHERS REALIZE OUR POSITION IS CENTRAL TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND WE ARE REACTING NATURALLY.

3. THE SECRETARY GENERAL NOTED THAT SWEDEN WILL PROBABLY HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN DEMONSTRATING TO THEIR OWN PARLIAMENT THAT CERTAIN LOANS BENEFIT THE NEEDY. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO CONSULT WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN BUREAU ON CRUCIAL VOTES. AMBASSADOR TODMAN AGREED READILY.

4. CHILE. THE DISCUSSION TURNED BRIEFLY TO CHILE. LEIFLAND EXPLAINED THAT SWEDEN WAS REPRESENTED IN SANTIAGO BY A CHARGE, AND THAT HIS COUNTRY IS IN CHARGE OF CUBAN INTERESTS. THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WAS REMOVED FROM CHILE BECAUSE OF SWEDEN'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO
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PRESIDENT PINOCHET AS WELL AS CHILEAN DISPLEASURE WITH THE PERSONAL ACTIONS OF THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS PRO-ALLENDE.

5. ARGENTINA. THE SECRETARY GENERAL REPORTED ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO LEARN FROM THE ARGENTINES ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SWEDISH/ARGENTINE DUAL NATIONAL, DAGMAR HAGELIN. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT SHE WAS TAKEN FROM A HOUSE THAT WAS ATTACKED BY NAVY FORCES WHO SUSPECTED TERRORISTS LIVED THERE. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT HAGELIN SIMPLY HAPPENED TO BE VISITING A FRIEND AT THE HOUSE WHICH WAS ATTACKED. WE DISCUSSED OUR OWN MIXED BUT OFTEN SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN ELICITING INFORMATION ABOUT OUR OWN NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA.

6. LEIFLAND ASKED FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT VIDELA. TODMAN EXPLAINED THAT TO SOME EXTENT VIDELA IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THOSE ON THE RIGHT WHO WANT TO BRING MORE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR ENEMIES AND THOSE WHO WANT TO RESTORE CIVILIAN RULE MORE QUICKLY. THE AMBASSADOR CONTINUED THAT

VIDELA'S BASIC DESIRE APPEARS TO BE TO WISH TO RESTORE CIVILIAN RULE. PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA - A STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE - TOOK A CHANCE BY INVITING VIDELA TO VISIT CARACAS IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT. VIDELA TOLD TODMAN THAT HE IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH WHAT HE HAS TO DO TO COMBAT TOTAL DISORDER WHICH CAME FROM RIGHT AND LEFT. VIDELA SPOKE CONVINCINGLY OF HIS DESIRE FOR CHANGE. TODMAN TOLD HIM THAT THOSE WHO UPHOLD LAW CANNOT BE REDUCED TO THE LEVEL OF CRIMINALITY. VIDELA TOOK THIS QUIETLY. TODMAN COMMENTED THAT IF VIDELA CAN HOLD, HE WILL PROBABLY RETURN COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE.

7. LEIFLAND NOTED THAT PROBLEM OF DISAPPEARANCES IN
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ARGENTINA IS ONE WHICH MOST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES FACE. WITHOUT INTERVENING IN FAVOR OF ANY SPECIFIC CASE, SECRETARY GENERAL INQUIRED ABOUT THE WISDOM OF A JOINT EUROPEAN DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF THE TREATMENT OF THEIR NATIONALS. WE RESPONDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE CONSTRUCTIVE BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE ARGENTINA GIVES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. LEIFLAND ASKED IF WE MIGHT NOT CONSULT WITH OUR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES ABOUT SUCH A DEMARCHE AND WHO MIGHT LEAD IT. AMBASSADOR TODMAN PROMISED TO REQUEST OUR EMBASSY'S ADVICE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES COMMENTS ON WHETHER A EUROPEAN APPROACH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE PROTECTION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS. SHOULD THE USG JOIN SUCH AN APPROACH? SHOULD OTHER GOVERNMENTS BE ASKED TO JOIN? CHRISTOPHER

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